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U.S. Appl. S.N. 10/509,880

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-13 and add the following new claim 14 as indicated in the following Listing of Claims.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1 1. (Currently amended) Water A water filter cartridge,
2 especially for treating drinking water in beverage machines or
3 drinking water devices, with a replaceable control unit to
4 monitor the condition of the water filter cartridge,
5 characterized in that the wherein the improvement comprises a
6 control unit includes having a sensor unit (11) with at least one
7 conductance sensor (13, 14).

1 2. (Currently amended) Water The water filter cartridge
2 according to Claim 1, characterized in that the wherein at least
3 one conductance sensor (13) is provided to measure the measures
4 conductivity of the filtered water.

1 3. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~
3 claim 1 or 2 wherein said at least one conductance sensor
4 ~~elements (13) are provided which project~~ projects into the
5 housing (2) of the filter cartridge (1).

1 4. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~
3 claim 1 further comprising at least one passage and/or at least
4 one break point ~~are provided for one or more~~ for receiving said
5 at least one conductance sensor elements (13) to go through.

1 5. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~
3 claim 1 further comprising a second conductance sensor (19) ~~is~~
4 ~~provided to measure~~ (14) for measuring the quality of the
5 unfiltered water.

1 6. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~
3 claim 1 or 5 further comprising an electronic evaluation unit
4 (19) ~~is~~ provided.

1 7. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~
3 the claim 1 or 5 further comprising an electronic evaluation unit
4 (19) takes for taking into account the difference between at
5 least two conductance values in performing ~~its~~ evaluation.

1 8. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~
3 claim 1 or 5 further comprising a temperature sensor (15) ~~is~~
4 provided.

1 9. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~
3 claim 1 or 5 further comprising an evaluation unit and a timing
4 ~~element is provided for determining the time in said evaluation~~
5 unit.

1 10. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~
3 claim 1 or 5 further comprising a display (16) is provided for
4 displaying the condition of the water filter cartridge (1).

1 11. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~
3 claim 1 further comprising fastening elements (12) ~~are provided~~
4 to fasten the sensor unit (11) to the filter cartridge (1).

1 12. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~

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3 claim 11 wherein at least some of the fastening elements are
4 catches (12).

1 13. (Currently amended) ~~Beverage~~ The water filter cartridge
2 according to claim 1 further comprising a beverage machine or
3 drinking water device with a drinking water treatment system,
4 ~~characterized in that a water filter cartridge (1) according to~~
5 ~~one of the preceding claims is provided.~~

1 14. (New) A filter cartridge device for treating drinking
2 water in beverage machines or drinking water devices having a
3 housing and a replaceable control unit to monitor the condition
4 of the water filter cartridge wherein the improvement comprises a
5 control unit having a sensor unit (11) with at least one
6 conductance sensor (13, 14) and fastening elements (12) being
7 provided to attach the sensor unit (11) to the housing of the
8 filter cartridge (1).